

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for extracting an object from a video image including an object and a background, comprising:

performing an object extraction by generating alpha data in units of one frame using the video image, the alpha data representing an object region including the object;

setting ~~manually one of~~ an overwrite enable mode and an overwrite disable mode to the ~~alpha data frame in units of one frame according to performance of the alpha data~~, the overwrite enable mode being for permitting overwriting and the overwrite disable mode for inhibiting overwriting; and

detecting the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode in units of one frame to extract the object.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 1, which includes generating new alpha data for the ~~alpha data frame~~ set to the overwrite enable mode, overwriting the new alpha data on the alpha data of the frame set to the overwrite enable mode and inhibiting overwriting to the alpha data of the frame set to the overwrite disable mode.

Claim 3 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the setting step includes displaying a video image display lane which displays a plurality of frames of the video image, and setting selectively the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode to the frames.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3, wherein the setting step includes setting initially the overwrite enable mode to all the frames, and then ~~changing selectively setting the overwrite enable disable modes on the frames to the overwrite disable mode in accordance with the result of the determining.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 3, which includes terminating processing for extracting an object without advancing to processing for a next frame when the overwrite disable mode is determined.

Claim 6 (Original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the displaying step displays a plurality of thumb nails obtained by reducing the frames.

Claim 7 (Original): A method according to claim 6, wherein the displaying step displays a video display window which enlarges and displays a selected one of the thumb nails.

Claim 8 (Original): A method according to claim 7, wherein the displaying step displays the video display window with at least one of the object region and a background region corresponding to the background is painted with a color.

Claim 9 (Original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the displaying step displays the frames by selectively skipping them.

Claim 10 (Original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the displaying step displays a mode setting lane which indicates a frame range of the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode.

Claim 11 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the setting step sets to the overwrite disable mode a frame in which a motion vector detection error is small, a motion is small, or a difference in pixel values at both ends of an object contour is large.

Claims 12-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An apparatus which extracts an object from a video image including an object and a background, comprising:

an object extraction device configured to perform an object extraction by generating alpha data in units of one frame using the video image, the alpha data representing an object region including the object;

a ~~designation~~ setting device configured to ~~manually designate one of~~ set an overwrite enable mode and an overwrite disable mode to each of a plurality of frames of the video image in units of one frame according to performance of the alpha data, the overwrite enable mode being for permitting overwriting and the overwrite disable mode for inhibiting overwriting; and

a device configured to detect the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode in units of one frame to extract the object ~~perform an overwrite or an overwrite inhibit in accordance with the mode designated by designation device~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 14, ~~wherein the designation device includes further including~~ a display unit configured to display a video image display lane which displays a plurality of frames of the video image, ~~and a mode setting unit which selectively sets the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode to the frames.~~

Claim 16 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the display unit displays a plurality of thumb nails obtained by reducing the frames.

Claim 17 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the display unit displays a video display window which enlarges and displays a selected one of the thumb nails.

Claim 18 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the display unit displays the video display window with at least one of the object region and a background region corresponding to the background is painted with a color.

Claim 19 (Original): An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the display unit displays a mode setting lane which indicates ranges set to the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode, respectively.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An apparatus which extracts an object from a video image including an object and a background, comprising:

means for performing an object extraction by generating alpha data in units of one frame using the video image, the alpha data representing an object region including the object;

means for ~~manually designating one of~~ setting an overwrite enable mode and an overwrite disable mode to each of a plurality of frames of the video image in units of one frame according to performance of the alpha data, the overwrite enable mode being for permitting overwriting and the overwrite disable mode for inhibiting overwriting; and

means for detecting the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode in units of one frame to extract the object performing an overwrite or an overwrite inhibit in accordance with the mode designated by the designating means.